

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 170950Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5894

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

RUMJMW XAMEMBASSY MANILA 3244

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY RANLON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T KUALA LUMPUR 5490

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR TH VN XC MY

SUBJ: PROPOSED SEA APPEAL TO NVN

1. I HAVE RESERVATIONS THAT MALAYSIA WOULD WISH TO SUBSCRIBE TO ANY SEA APPEAL TO NVN UNLESS A CAMPAIGN LED BY THAILAND AND INDONESIA WERE TO GET UNDER WAY WITHOUT CONSPICUOUS USG DESIGN. ESSENTIALLY THE MALAYSIANS BELIEVE NVN IS ONLY RESPONSIVE TO FOREIGN PUBLIC OPINION WHICH UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTS NVN'S OBJECTIVES, AND THAT THE ONLY FELT PRESSURES CAN COME FROMH HEIR MAJOR SUPPLIERS OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, USSR AND PRC.

2. IT IS ALSO PRECISELY BECAUSE GOM IS EAVHR TO SEE THE STRENGTHENING AND EVENTUAL EXPANSION OF ASEAN THAT IT WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO SEE THIS INFANT INSTITUTION ACT IN A MANNER THAT MIGHT PROVE OFFENSIVE TO A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER. WHATEVER THE MERITS OF THE CASE, PUTTING THE BURDEN OF GUILT ON ONE SIDE WOULD NOT BE SEEN BY GOM AS THE "EVEN-

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HANDED" APPROACH REQUIRED FOR SETTLEMENT OF THE INDOCHINA

TROUBLES, ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT RELUCTANTLY GO ALONG WITH A THAI-INDONESIAN INITIATIVE TO MAINTAIN ASEAN SOLIDARITY. A SINGAPOREAN OR MANILA PROPOSAL WOULD NOT MAKE A DENT IN KUALA LUMPUR.

3. THE GOM IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS CONCERNING NVN OBJECTIVES OR INTENTIONS. THEY EXPECT HANOI WILL EMPLOY EVERY RESOURCE, MILITARY AND POLITICAL, TO GAIN CONTROL OF VIETNAM (ALSO EVENTUALLY ALL INDOCHINA). FOR TIME BEING, GOM BELIEVES SNV IS EXPERTLY CHECKMATING NVN AND HOPES STANDOFF SITUATION MAY CONTINUE TO BLUNT EXPANSION OF NVN CONTROL AND INFLUENCE. MEANWHILE GOM WILL TRY TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH HANOI WITH HOPE LATTER WILL CHOOSE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH SEA NEIGHBORS. LYDMAN

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NNN

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